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General debate

Letter dated 1 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by His Excellency Néstor Carlos Kirchner, President of the Argentine Republic, on 25 September 2007 in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) John **Sawers**

07-53248 (E) 091007

Annex to the letter dated 1 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the President of the Argentine Republic in the general debate on 25 September 2007

The British Government attaches great importance to the principle of self-determination as set out in Article 1.2 of the Charter of the United Nations and article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. That principle underlies our position on the Falkland Islands.

The elected representatives of the Falkland Islands once again expressed their own views clearly when they visited the United Nations for this year's debate in the Committee of 24. They asked the Committee to recognize that they, like any other people, were entitled to exercise the right of self-determination. They reiterated that the people of the Falkland Islands did not wish for any change in the status of the Islands.

There can be no negotiations on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the islanders so wish.

The United Kingdom has no doubts about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

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General debate

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 4 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We would like to express our appreciation to you for your principled stance on the incident that took place last week during the general debate of the General Assembly regarding the name of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. We appreciate the statement made by your Deputy Spokesman that within the United Nations the Secretary-General and the Secretariat observe the practice of using the name former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as referred to in Security Council resolutions.

We remain deeply concerned by the incident and the actions of the current President of the General Assembly, Srgjan Kerim, who in full contravention of Security Council resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993), and General Assembly resolution 47/225 of 8 April 1993, which recommended that his country of nationality be "provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as the 'former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia' pending settlement of the difference that has arisen over the name of the State", chose, when designating his country, to use the very name over which there is a difference.

Likewise, his formal response to the point of order raised by Greece following the above designation, in his capacity as President of the General Assembly, that: "I am fully aware of the facts pointed out in the statement by the representative of Greece. At the same time, as President of the General Assembly, I am due to show respect to the dignity of every single Member State, including my own", is a clear indication of his lack of respect for the impartiality required of his office, as well as for the resolutions and the procedures of the Organization, which have been consistently observed by all previous Presidents of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the Member States.

Most important, such actions support the intransigent position of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the ongoing negotiations carried out under the auspices of the United Nations pursuant to Security Council resolution 845 (1993) with a view to reaching agreement over the name. That was clearly manifested by

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the statement made by President Crvenkovski on the same day before the General Assembly, according to which "the name of my [his] country is the Republic of Macedonia and will be the Republic of Macedonia".

We expect that henceforth the President of the General Assembly will uphold and observe the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, respect the relevant resolutions of the Organization and act in conformity with the principle of impartiality inherent in the institution of the presidency of the General Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) John **Mourikis**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 5 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

As already documented in the 2006 report outlining the achievements of the United Nations Mine Action Service (A/62/307), over 1 million unexploded cluster bombs were left by Israel in the aftermath of its war against Lebanon in the summer of 2006, in blatant violation of both humanitarian and international law. Those bombs have contaminated 34.2 million square metres of Lebanese territory.

As a result, Lebanese civilians face death on a daily basis. By the end of the summer, more than 233 Lebanese civilians had fallen victim to Israeli cluster bombs, many of whom were children. A 6-year-old child, Ali Dakdouk, was the latest victim of those deadly bombs. Little Ali was killed yesterday, 4 October, in Sultaniyya on his way to his first day of school. Ali's first day of school fatally became his last.

Israel's persistent refusal to give the United Nations the maps which indicate where it dropped the cluster bombs is an additional flagrant violation of both humanitarian and international law, since the remaining unexploded bombs represent a continuous threat to the safety and security of the Lebanese civilian population.

My Government reaffirms its commitment to end the scourge of cluster bombs and shall not spare any effort to reach an international ban on those ugly weapons.

Upon instructions of my Government, I kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 17.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Agenda item 22
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 5 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to the letter dated 9 August 2007 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to you, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded from 1 August to 27 September 2007, as follows:

On 1 August 2007, three CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 6 August 2007, two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 7 August 2007, two F-16, two Cougar and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 8 August 2007, four Cougar and two B-200 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 9 August 2007, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 13 August 2007, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations.

On 14 August 2007, one CN-235 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

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On 15 August 2007, four CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 16 August 2007, four F-16 and six CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations seven times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus six times.

On 17 August 2007, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 18 August 2007, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 20 August 2007, two CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 21 August 2007, four F-16 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus once.

On 22 August 2007, two B-200 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 23 August 2007, one MI-17 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 24 August 2007, one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type coming from a Turkish frigate violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 27 August 2007, two F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus once.

On 28 August 2007, four Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 30 August 2007, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 5 September 2007, two C-130 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 6 September 2007, two Cougar and two F-16 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 8 September 2007, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 11 September 2007, four F-16 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 12 September 2007, two B-200 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 13 September 2007, two Cougar and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 15 September 2007, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 19 September 2007, two C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 20 September 2007, three CN-235 and two F-16 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 24 September 2007, two F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 25 September 2007, one CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus once.

On 26 September 2007, two Cougar, two B-200 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 27 September 2007, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I strongly protest the aforementioned violations, which, as indicated in our previous communications, blatantly endanger the safety of international civil aviation and contravene international law and air traffic regulations. These violations put at stake the peace and stability of the region, and I call for their immediate cessation.

Such policies and actions provide ample demonstration of the irresponsible behaviour of a country that otherwise aspires to assume a non-permanent seat of the Security Council. The Government of Turkey should heed the call of the international community, abide by the Charter of the United Nations and respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, thus contributing to the creation of the required conditions for the achievement of a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andreas D. **Mavroyiannis**

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Agenda item 131
Pattern of conferences

Pattern of conferences

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences (A/62/161 and Corr.1). The Committee also had before it the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2007.[1] During its consideration of the reports, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications.

2. The report of the Secretary-General, which was issued on 27 July 2007, was under preparation at the time the Advisory Committee was considering the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Consequently, many of the issues highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General were also the subject of discussion during the Committee's deliberations on the estimates under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, the Advisory Committee has commented on matters relating to conference servicing, including integrated global management of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, information technology initiatives, workload and costing of services, succession planning, documentation services, and publishing and meeting services.[2] The present report should therefore be read in conjunction with the Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

3. The Advisory Committee notes that, as part of the effort towards integrated global management of the Department, a compendium of administrative policies, practices and procedures was adopted in 2006 reflecting agreements reached by the four duty stations. The aim of the exercise was to streamline procedures, share resources and thus achieve economies. The Committee understands that the

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/62/32).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 7* (A/62/7), chap. II.A, sect. 2.

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compendium would be kept under review and updated or broadened as appropriate. In this connection, as indicated in paragraph 8 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/161), the 2007 Coordination Meeting of Conference Managers discussed a number of areas for further coordination. The Committee notes in particular that in 2007 the discussions have included implementation of a common roster of outside contractors, as well as the approval of terms of reference of a working group on publishing to be composed of representatives from each of the four duty stations. **The Committee welcomes these initiatives, which it considers a step towards integrated global management, and commends the Department for the progress it has achieved in this area thus far**.

4. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, the Committee commented in detail on information technology initiatives of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.[3] In this connection, the Committee was informed that the Department intends to evaluate the capabilities of enterprise content management (ECM) and customer relationship management (CRM) applications as global solutions for documents and meetings management, respectively. However, progress has been slowed by delays in the approval and procurement processes for these applications. Both are being introduced by the Information Technology Services Division for use in the Secretariat. Upon request, the Committee was provided with updated information. With regard to the acquisition of ECM, three processes were under way concurrently: (a) contract terms were under review by the Office of Legal Affairs; (b) the Information Technology Services Division was in the process of developing a proof-of-concept model; and (c) the Procurement Division was finalizing the terms of the bid. It is anticipated that these three processes would be completed by the end of October 2007. The Advisory Committee was informed that the procurement process for CRM had been completed and that contracts had been concluded. The Department has scheduled its first workshop with CRM consultants in October 2007 to begin the evaluation process.

5. The Secretary-General reports a slight decline in utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities for all duty stations except Nairobi. The overall utilization factor for 2006, at 83 per cent, was 2 per cent lower than in 2005, but above the established benchmark of 80 per cent (see A/62/161, para. 24). The Advisory Committee notes that the methodology employed for calculating the utilization factor has not changed significantly since 1993. The Committee has commented, in the past, that raw statistics on the utilization of conference resources are potentially misleading and could obscure the understanding of actual efficiency gains in the utilization of allocated conference resources (see A/60/433, para. 2, and A/59/418, para. 5). The Committee remains convinced of the need to improve the methodology by including qualitative analysis and, inter alia, measurement of results achieved with available resources. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Department had sought the assistance of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in addressing the need for a better picture of utilization of conference services. **The Committee recommends that the results of those consultations be included in the next report on the pattern of conferences**.

[3] Ibid., chap. II, paras. I.37-I.42.

6. The Advisory Committee discussed with representatives of the Secretary-General the Department's plans for minimizing the disruption to conference services that may be caused by the implementation of the capital master plan. The Department intends to move the entire document processing chain, as an integrated operation, to swing space by the end of the third quarter of 2008. Should delays in implementation of the capital master plan occur, the move would be postponed to the first quarter of 2009, after the conclusion of the main part of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, in order to avoid undue disruption of documents processing during that period. The Committee notes that the fifth annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan envisages some adjustments to the schedule which, depending on the action thereon by the General Assembly, may have an impact on the Department's plans.

7. The Department has taken measures to address the problem of late submission of documentation, including, among other things, providing authors with a model timeline for the preparation of reports, sending weekly reminders to focal points in author departments to apprise them of upcoming deadlines, seeking feedback from intergovernmental bodies through document service reports, providing slotting schedules to presiding officers of intergovernmental bodies for reference in preparing their programmes of work and advance management of page limit waivers with heads of author departments. **In connection with the latter, the Committee welcomes the fact that through proactive measures, the Department has managed to negotiate a total decrease of 59,196 words, or 112 single-spaced pages, from the level originally requested by author departments for the second half of 2007 (see A/62/161, para. 67).**

8. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, compliance with the submission schedule and page limits is, in some cases, beyond the control of the Secretariat. This is true, for example, for submissions from Member States and reports of the Secretary-General that are compilations of inputs from Member States. As noted in paragraph 69 of the report, some author departments send out questionnaires for such reports that make no mention of the need for brevity, and the departments are reluctant to summarize submissions of Member States, as recommended by the General Assembly in section D, paragraph 5, of resolution 41/177. The Department reports that it continues to draw the attention of the secretariats servicing intergovernmental bodies to the drafting guidelines for reports not originating in the Secretariat (A/58/CRP.7).

9. In paragraph 77 of the report, the Secretary-General seeks endorsement by the General Assembly of the guidelines mentioned in paragraph 8 above and sets out a number of measures intended to address documentation problems. In brief, it is suggested that the Assembly may also wish to urge intergovernmental bodies to respond to document service reports; affirm that documents prepared on the basis of submissions from Governments or agencies and programmes of the United Nations system should not reproduce the full text of submissions; reiterate its request that the Secretary-General bring to the attention of intergovernmental bodies, at the time of adoption of decisions, any request for documentation that exceeds the ability of the Secretariat to produce such material within its approved resources and to give due explanations; and request Member States and intergovernmental bodies to submit their inputs to reports of the Secretary-General in a timely manner and make efforts to keep them succinct. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the measures set out in paragraph 77 of the Secretary-General's report.**

10. The Advisory Committee notes that the Department has established a publishing working group composed of focal points from the publishing areas of each of the four duty stations, with the aim of sharing information and best practices and investigating the possibilities for technology and capacity-sharing among the operations (see A/62/161, para. 83). The Committee understands that, as part of its work, the working group will conduct an assessment of the printing capacities throughout the Organization. **The Committee welcomes this initiative and urges the working group to expedite completion of the above-mentioned assessment.**

11. Paragraphs 84 to 86 of the report of the Secretary-General outline the measures that have been taken to develop indicators of achievement and measures of full-system performance to supplement the individual workload standards that have traditionally been applied in the Department. The proposed performance measurement matrix, which includes indicators for financial performance, timeliness and meetings management, as well as quality, productivity and human resources measures, is set out in paragraph 86 of the report. The Committee also discussed with representatives of the Secretary-General the efforts made by the Department to quantify conference servicing costs. The Committee was informed that the current costing model provided a fairly clear picture of the costs of services. However, the Department felt that further development of costing techniques for the Department, in isolation from the rest of the system, would not prove fruitful. Upon enquiry, the Department indicated its willingness to participate in a pilot project for the collection of cost information as part of a broader exercise. The Advisory Committee will address cost accounting separately in the context of its report on that matter.

12. The Advisory Committee notes, as it did in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009,[4] that the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management will be particularly affected by retirements in the coming years, with a total of 238 staff, or more than 20 per cent of all staff on established language posts, due to retire between 2007 and 2011. The need for adequate succession planning is therefore acute. The Secretary-General highlights outreach efforts being made to universities and training institutions, as well as training initiatives undertaken by the Department to address this problem. It is clear, however, that the ability of the Department, in cooperation with the Office of Human Resources Management, to hold an adequate number of competitive examinations for language posts will be essential for effective succession planning.

13. While the number of competitive examinations needed to fill foreseen vacancies due to retirement is not quantified in the report of the Secretary-General, the Committee was informed, in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, that a total of 28 competitive examinations would need to be held in the next five years to ensure that an adequate pool of prospective new recruits would be available when needed. As noted in paragraph 95 of the report of the Secretary-General, strategic scheduling of the examinations is important, as the rosters tend to go stale if offers of employment are not forthcoming soon after their establishment. The Committee notes that the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has reservations concerning the intention of the Office of Human Resources Management to seek economies of scale by scheduling all examinations for the same language at the

[4] Ibid., paras. I.46-I.48.

same time. **The Committee urges the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Office of Human Resources Management to agree on measures aimed at ensuring the prompt organization and scheduling of the necessary language examinations in the coming biennium.**

14. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit proposals for handling succession planning in the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, and assigning responsibility in this regard, in the context of his next reports on the pattern of conferences and human resources management.**